

CLAIMS

1. A method (300) of configuring, in a router, a physical port for coupling to a network, said method comprising:

receiving (320) a message to configure said physical port for use with said network;

associating (325), responsive to receiving said message, a set of mapping assignments for using said physical port to access said network; and

implementing (330) said mapping assignments, responsive to associating said mapping assignments, to configure said physical port for coupling to said network.

2. The method (300) of claim 1, further comprising:
storing (340) said mapping assignments.

3. The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said network is a Wide Area Network (WAN).

4. The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said network is a Local Area Network (LAN).

5. The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said network is a Local Area Network (LAN) prior to said step of implementing (330) and is a Wide Area Network (WAN) after said step of implementing (330).

6. The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said message is implemented using an Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) SET command.

7. The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said message is implemented using HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) data.

8. The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said message is created after detecting at least one hardware switch setting change.

9. The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said message is implemented using a router proprietary command message.

10. A router having a physical port for coupling to a network, said router comprising:

means for receiving (320) a message to configure said physical port for use with said network;

means for associating (325), responsive to receiving said message, a set of mapping assignments for using said physical port to access said network; and

means for implementing (330) said mapping assignments, responsive to associating said mapping assignments, to configure said physical port for coupling to said network.

11. A router comprising:

processor, memory, and support circuitry (220) having a WAN/LAN port manager (225);

a LAN interface (130);

a WAN interface (135); and

a plurality of physical ports (240) selectively connectable to said LAN interface (130) or said WAN interface (135),

wherein said WAN/LAN port manager (225) controls whether each of said plurality of physical ports (240) is coupled to said LAN interface (130) or said WAN interface (135).